

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /101 W

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R 030231Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6843

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 2575

THE FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION JAKARTA FROM SURABAYA DTD
21 FEB IS RPTD:

QUOTE

SURABAYA 0132

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PT

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM DRILLING IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR

REF: A. LISBON 914

B. SURABAYA 614

1. AS REF B INDICATES, WE DISCUSSED POTENTIAL OIL RESOURCES
OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR DURING OUR VISIT TO DILI IN DECEMBER 1974.
TONY RICARDO, DILI MANAGER OF TIMOR OIL, WAS ABSENT DURING OUR VISIT,
BUT WE OBTAINED FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM MRS. SUZANNE DE
ALMEIDA, WIFE OF FRENCH CONSUL, WHO WORKED AS RICARDO'S
SECRETARY UNTIL MAY 1974.

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2. TIMOR OIL HAS BEEN WILDCATting IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR FOR

MANY YEARS. IT WAS FORMED BY AN AUSTRALINA NAMED BODSON, WHO ALSO SERVES AS PORTUGUESE HONORARY CONSUL IN MELBOURNE. UNTIL MAY 1974, DOBSON WAS LARGEST SINGLE SHAREHOLDER IN TIMOR OIL.

3. EARLY IN 1974, TIMOR OIL SENT SAMPLES OF GEOLOGIC MATERIAL FROM OFFSHORE DRILLING SITE NEAR TOWN OF SUAI, ON SOUTH CAOST, TO HOUSTON OIL RESEARCH CENTER FOR ANALYSIS. APPARENTLY REPORT FROM HOUSTON WAS VERY ENCOURAGING. SOON AFTERWARDS, ACCORDING TO MRS. DE ALMEIDA, BURMA SHELL BOUGHT UP 50 PERCENT OF STOCK OF TIMOR OIL ON AUSTRALAIN MARKET. AT SAME TIME, FOR UNKNOWN REASONS, MRS. ALMEIDA WAS FIRED AS RICHARDO'S SECRETARY. SHE HAS SUBSEQUENTLY HEARD THAT DODSON IS FIGHTING BURMA SHELL PURCHASE OF TIMOR OIL STOCK IN AUSTRALIAN COURTS, AND THAT HE HAS ENLISTED HELP FROM UNNAMED AMERICAN OIL COMPANY IN THIS EFFORT.

4. MRS. ALMEIDA ALSO SAID THAT BURMA SHELL WAS FUNDING ALRGE-SCALE NEW EXPLORATION CAMPAIGN TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF SUAI FIND, TO BEGIN IN MARCH 1975 WHEN RAINY SEASON AND HEAVY WAVES SUBSIDED OFF TIMOR'S SOUTH COAST.

HOWLAND

UNQUOTE.

NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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